Fixing the prices of chemical fertilizers

1195. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government considers the economic condition of the small and medium farmers while fixing the price of chemical fertilizers in the country;

(b) if so, the details of norms/criteria followed in fixing the prices of such items;

(c) whether the chemical fertilizers are not made available to the farmers at prices fixed by Government for the farmers;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to provide economic benefits to the fanners in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The prices of the chemical fertilizers in the country is same for all farmers including the small and marginal farmers. The price of the fertilizers has been kept constant since February, 2002 in view of its affordability to the farmers. The price today is much lower than its delivered cost at the farmgate level. The difference between the notified selling price of the fertilizers and the normative delivered cost of subsidized fertilizers at farmgate level is paid to manufacturers/importers as subsidy by the Government.

(c) and (d) The chemical fertilizers under the subsidy regime are made available to the farmers at the price fixed by the Government for the farmers.

(e) In context of chemical fertilizers, to provide economic benefits to the farmers in the country, the price of the fertilizers under the subsidy regime has been kept constant from February, 2002 onwards, inspite of sharp increase in the delivered cost of the fertilizers during this period.

Setting up of PCPIRs

†1196. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to set up Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions on the lines of Special Economic Zone;

(b) if so, the comprehensive details thereof;

(c) the States which have given their consent for setting up such regions; and

(d) the State where a huge region of Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment is likely to be set up at the outset?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) The Cabinet has recently approved the Policy for setting up of Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical Investment Regions (PCPIRs), and the same has been published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary, Part I, Section 1 dated 4th April, 2007) and is also placed on the website of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals *viz.* www.chemicals.nic.in. The PCPIR is a specifically

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.